

EXHIBIT 5



WOLVERINES

Michigan athletes involved in Ann Arbor Jewish center vandalism have apologized, says rabbi

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Surveillance video posted on AAPD’s social media page Friday, Aug. 25, shows two individuals walking with a group of people along Hill Street stop in front of the center at 5:02 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023, and leave the graffiti in front of the building before walking away. Photo provided by the Ann Arbor Police Department



By [Ryan Zuke](#) | rzuke1@mlive.com

ANN ARBOR – Two University of Michigan student-athletes suspected of vandalizing the sidewalk in front of Jewish Resource Center in Ann Arbor have apologized, said a rabbi with the center.

The pair asked to attend a Shabbat dinner at the JRC, which took place last month just ahead of Yom Kippur -- the Jewish Day of Atonement -- to apologize to more than 350 people in attendance.

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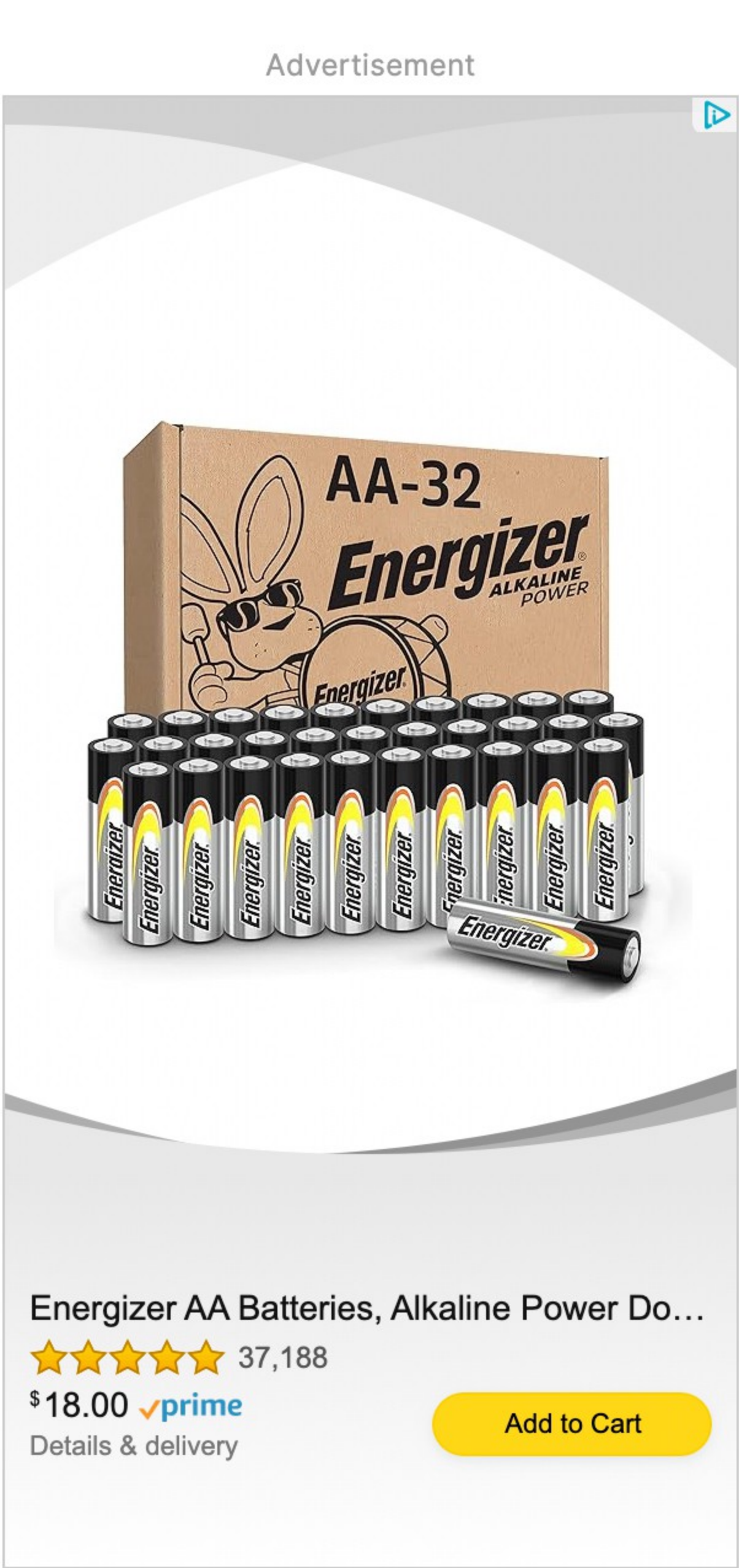
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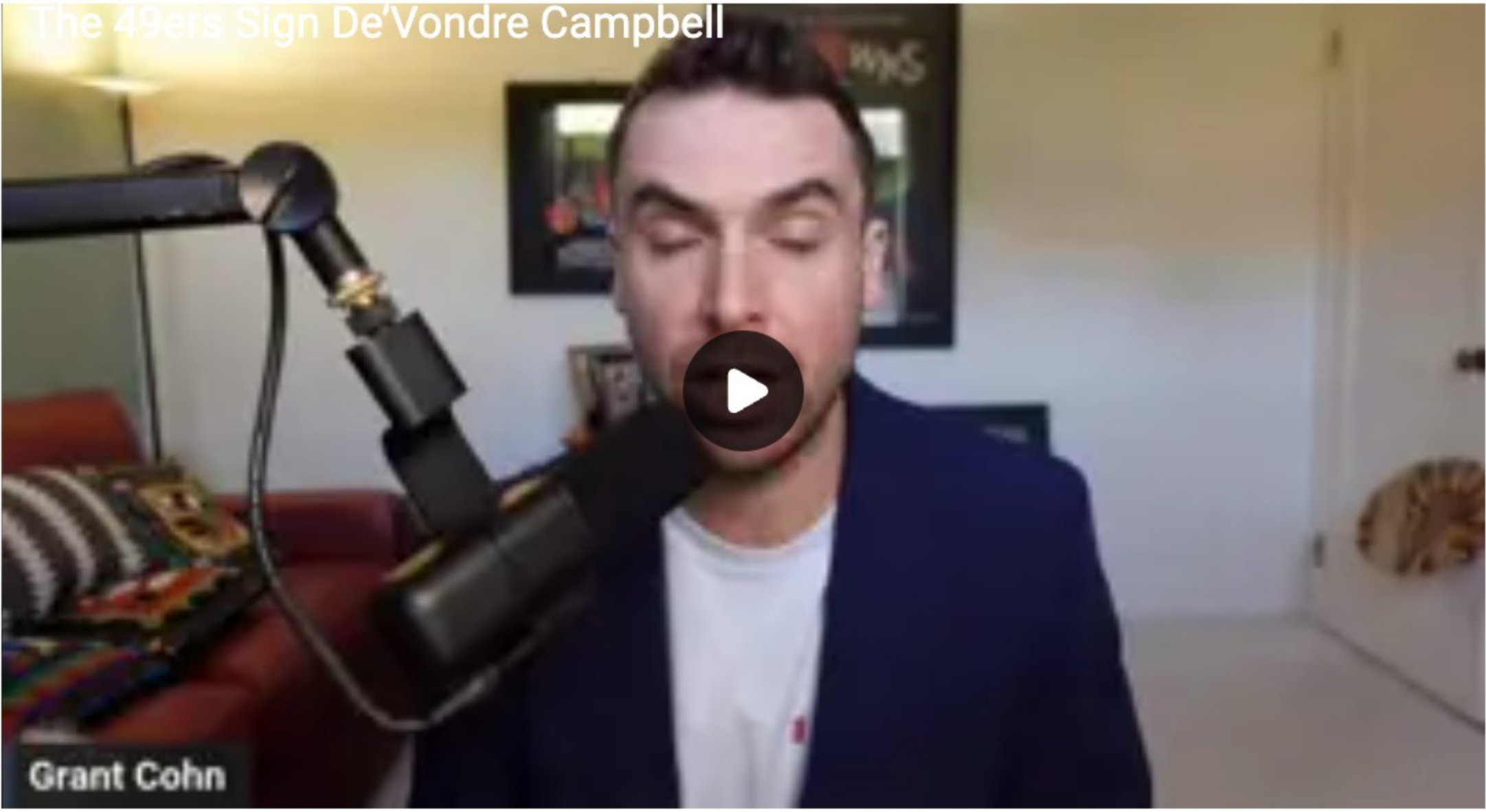
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“It seemed sincere, and they were the ones who offered to apologize to the whole community,” Rabbi Mendy Klahr told MLive. “They were really moved by what we do and understood how big of a mistake it was...I think it is a brave move to come in front of 350-400 students.”

Klahr said the center opted not to pursue charges against the pair.

“As Jews, we try to sanctify the name of God. I think that does more than just getting rid of kids or getting them kicked out of school,” Klahr said. “We try to give second chances.”

The Ann Arbor Police Department released a statement Tuesday regarding the incident, which took place shortly after 5 p.m. Aug. 22. It [stated](#) that the male suspect spray-painted male genitalia as well as a homophobic slur on the sidewalk of the JRC property at 1335 Hill St., while the female spray-painted her initials.

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Ann Arbor police [released surveillance video](#) of the incident on Aug. 25 to help identify the pair.

Because the JRC declined to press charges, police did not release the names of the suspects.

[Published reports have identified](#) the pair as Michigan hockey sophomore Johnny Druskinis and Michigan women’s lacrosse sophomore Megan Minturn.

Druskinis was removed from the Wolverines’ hockey team late last week.

Meanwhile, Minturn’s status on the lacrosse team remains unclear.


She appeared in five games as a freshman, but the roster for the 2024 season has not yet been released. Because women’s lacrosse is a spring sport, a Michigan athletics spokesperson said it can’t comment on a possible suspension because the team is not in season.

A Michigan athletic department spokesperson told MLive that the university cannot connect the two student-athletes to the JRC incident because of student privacy laws. Druskinis was dismissed from the hockey team last week for a “violation of team rules,” according to a team spokesperson.


Druskinis and Minturn did not respond to an MLive request for comment.

Klahr denounced the vandalism, especially the homophobic language, but said there also has been misinformation published about the incident.

“Yom Kippur is probably the holiest day for Jewish people,” Klahr said. “It’s like a very special day. We have a long build-up to that in our communities and classes. The services are different



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those days. And I see articles, and it’s a little bit taken out of context because there wasn’t any swastikas or anything like that. I’m not taking away from what they did. It was homophobic and a terrible drawing. But there’s a difference between that and a swastika.

“This specific case, I’m not saying that if it happens again, we just forgive anyone, but as Jews, we try to be forgiving. We try to give another chance.”

Michigan hockey head coach Brandon Naurato had no comment when asked about Druskinis during the team’s media day video news conference on Tuesday as the Wolverines prepare for their season-opener Saturday against Providence.

As a freshman in 2022-23, Druskinis appeared in eight games, recording two assists. Prior to arriving at Michigan, the Plymouth native played three seasons in the United States Hockey League. He played the 2021-22 campaign with the Tri-City Storm, finishing with three goals, five assists and 159 penalty minutes in 53 games.

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A Freedom of Information Act request for the police report has been filed by MLive/The Ann Arbor News.

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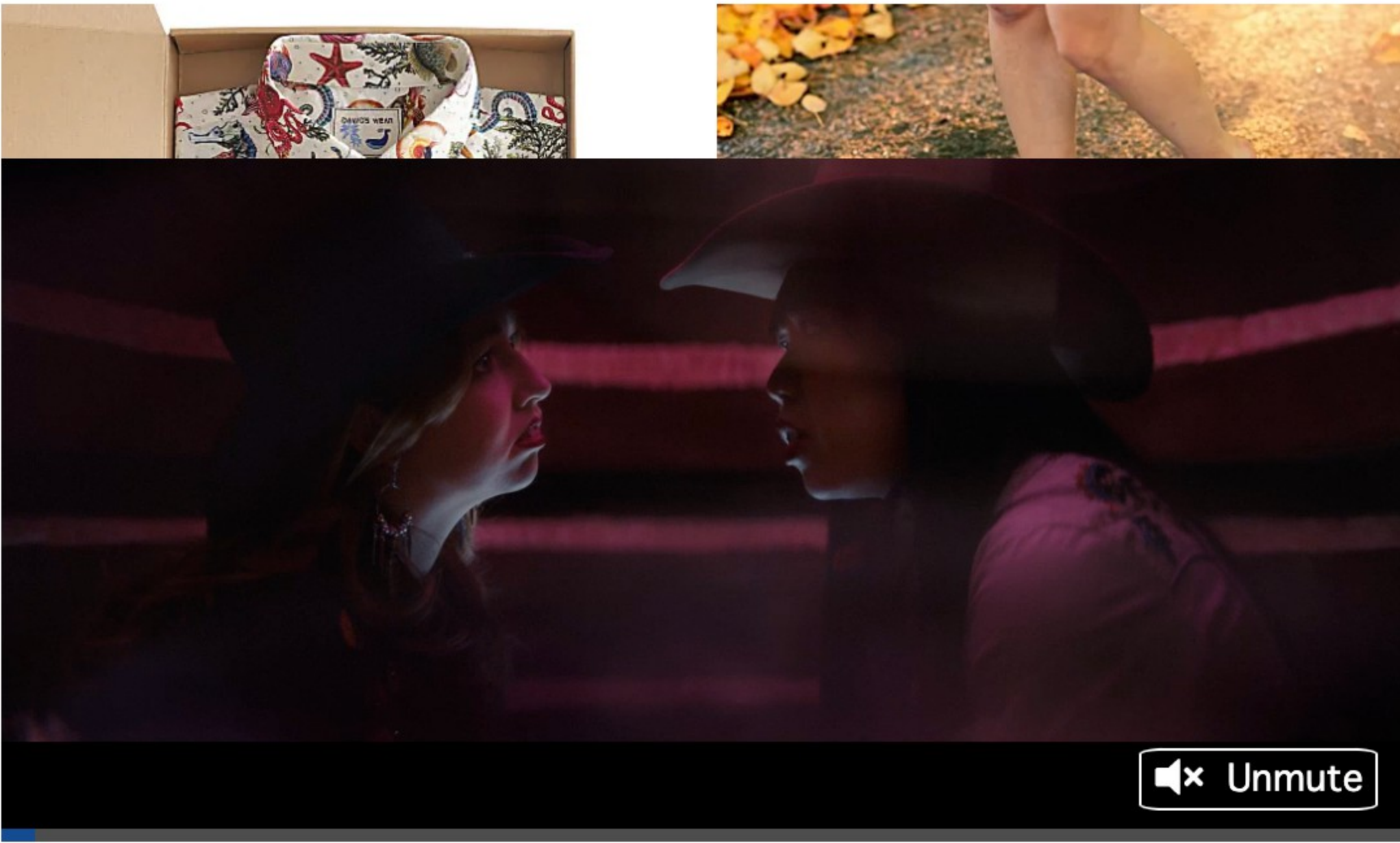


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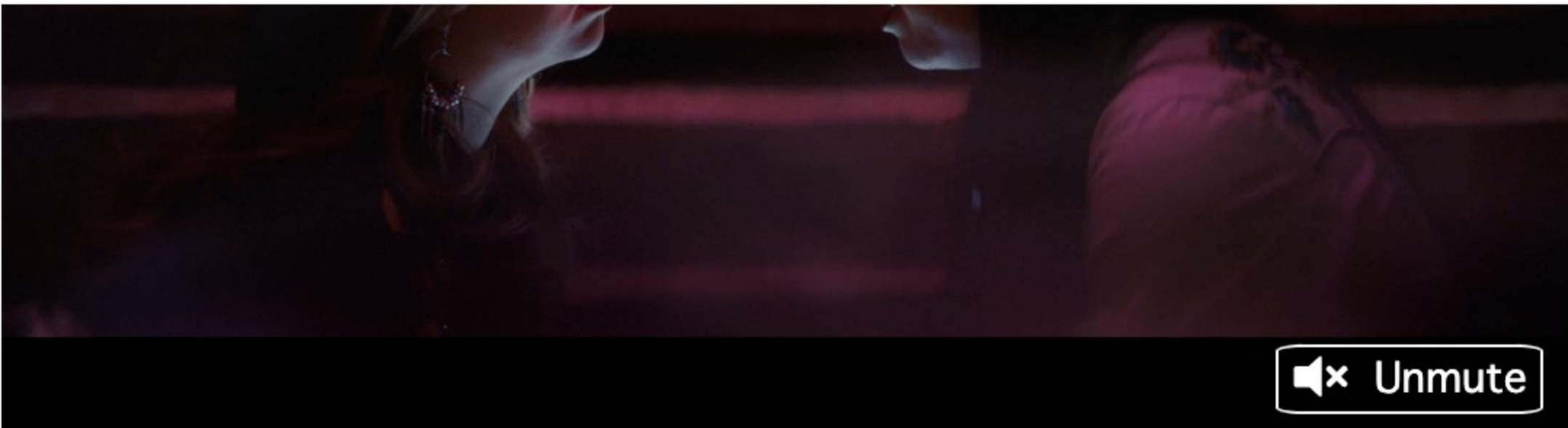
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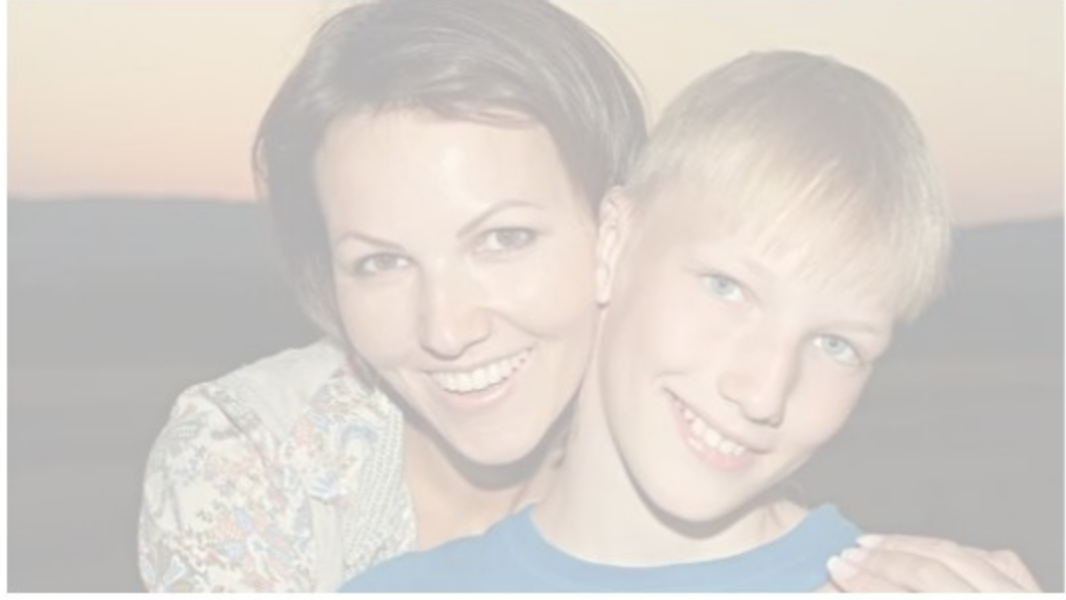
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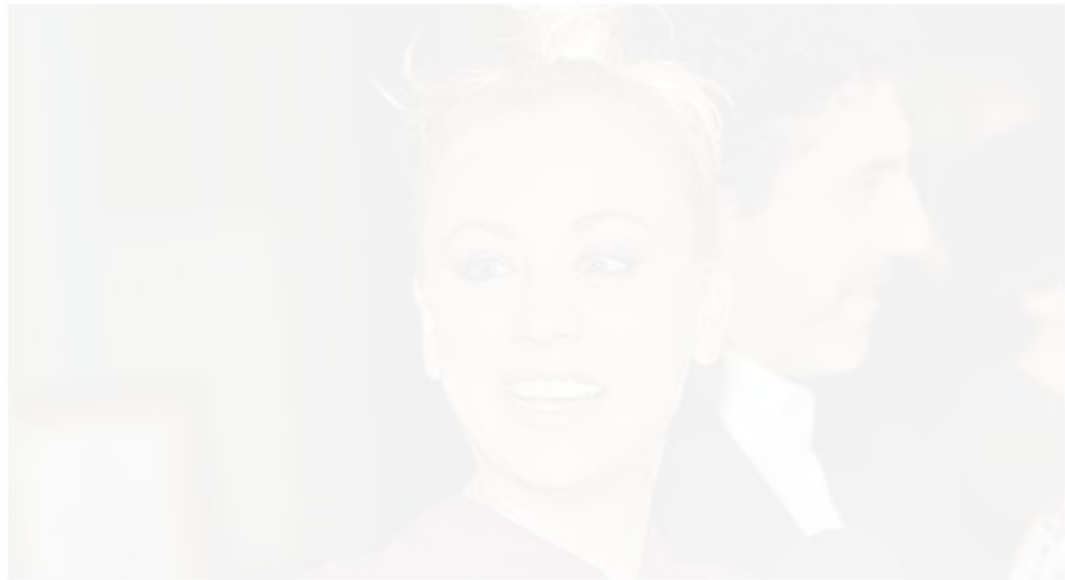
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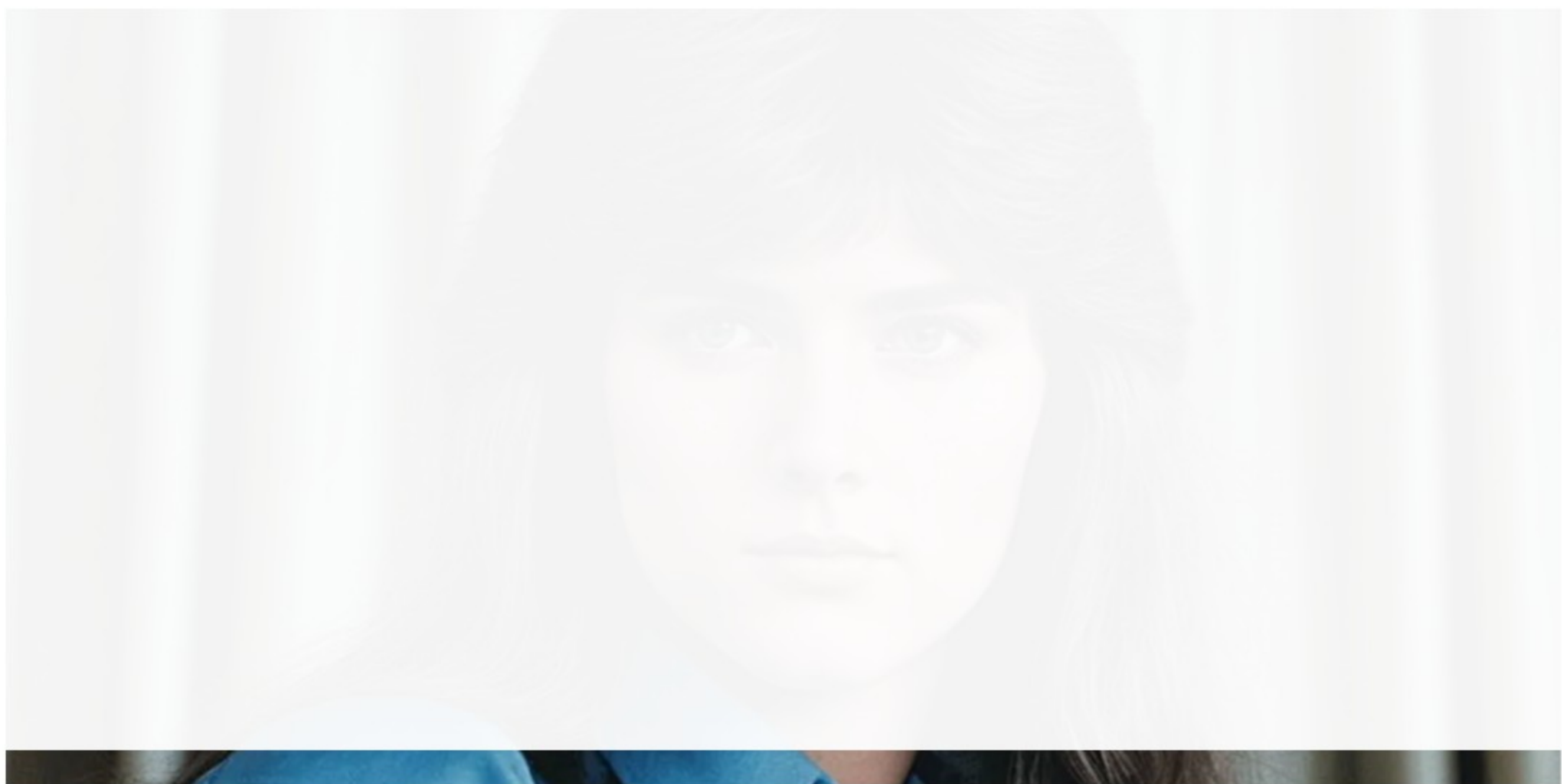
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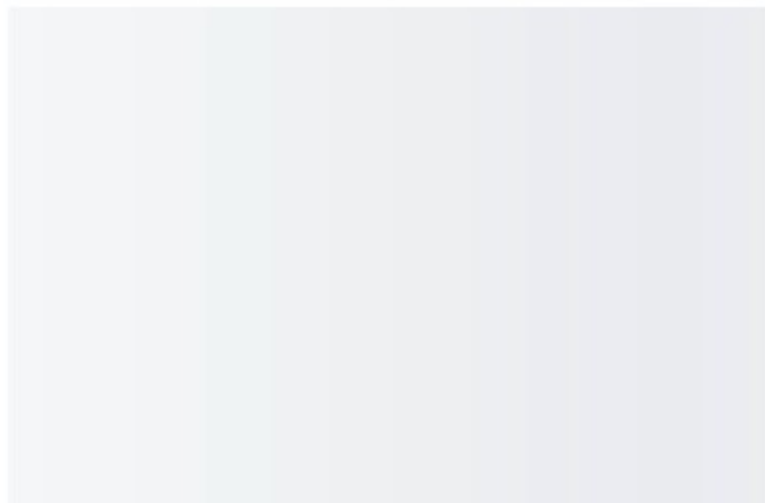
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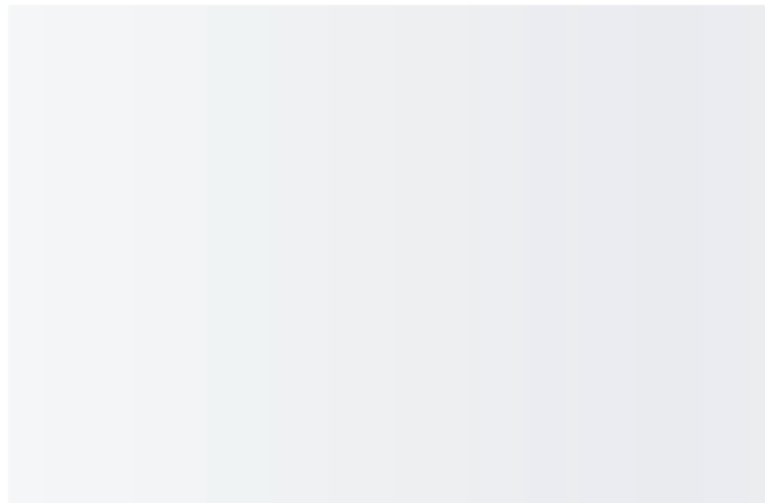
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